



# Co-Occurrence of IPV and Child Maltreatment

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MARYLAND MIECHV CONFERENCE**

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NATASHA PETERSON

ASST. DIRECTOR, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

CHAIR, MARYLAND HOME VISITING ALLIANCE

THE FAMILY TREE



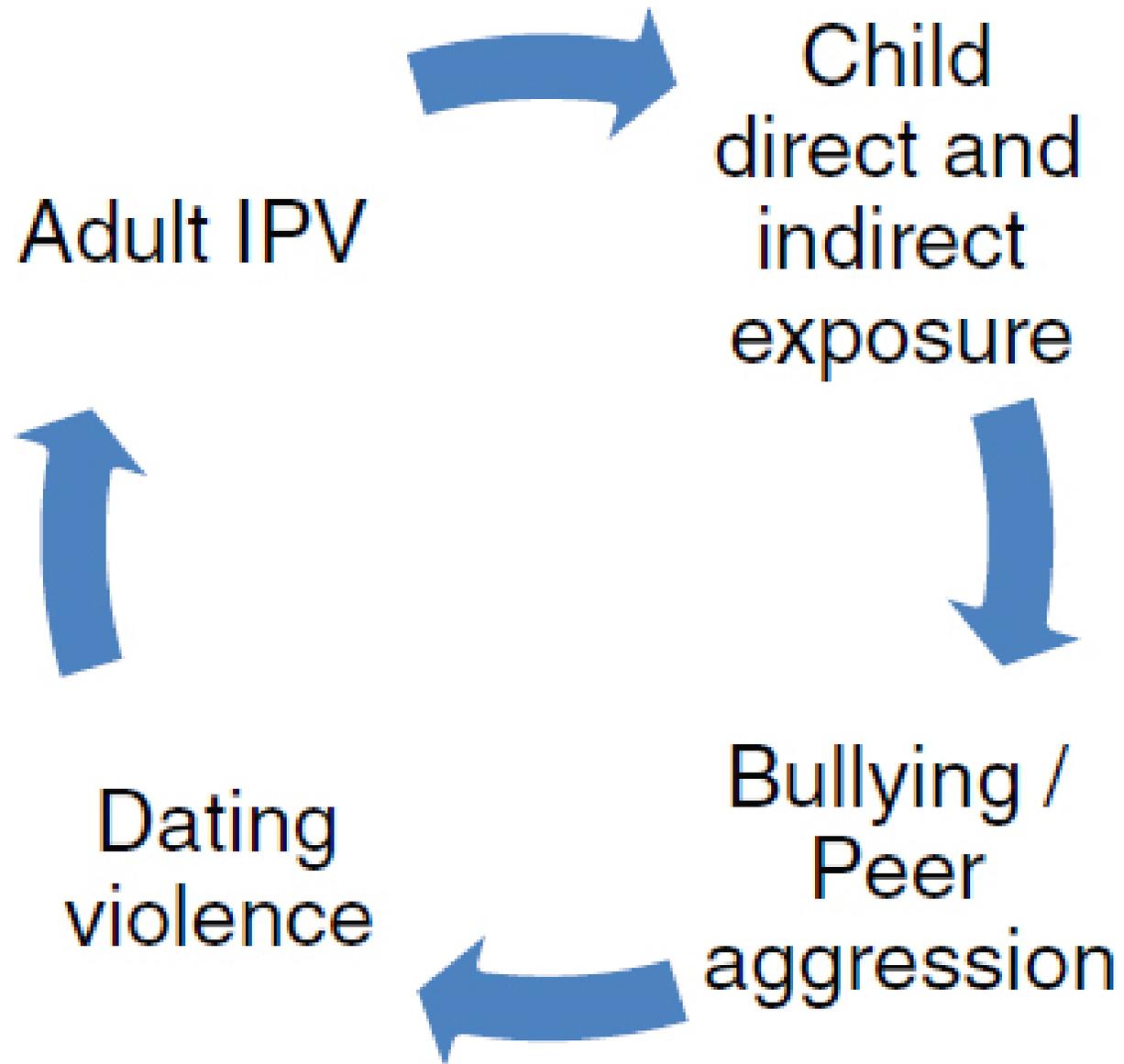
What doesn't kill you doesn't necessarily make you stronger. Far more often the opposite is true: the early chronic unpredictable stressors, losses, and adversities we face as children shape our biology in ways that predetermine our adult health.

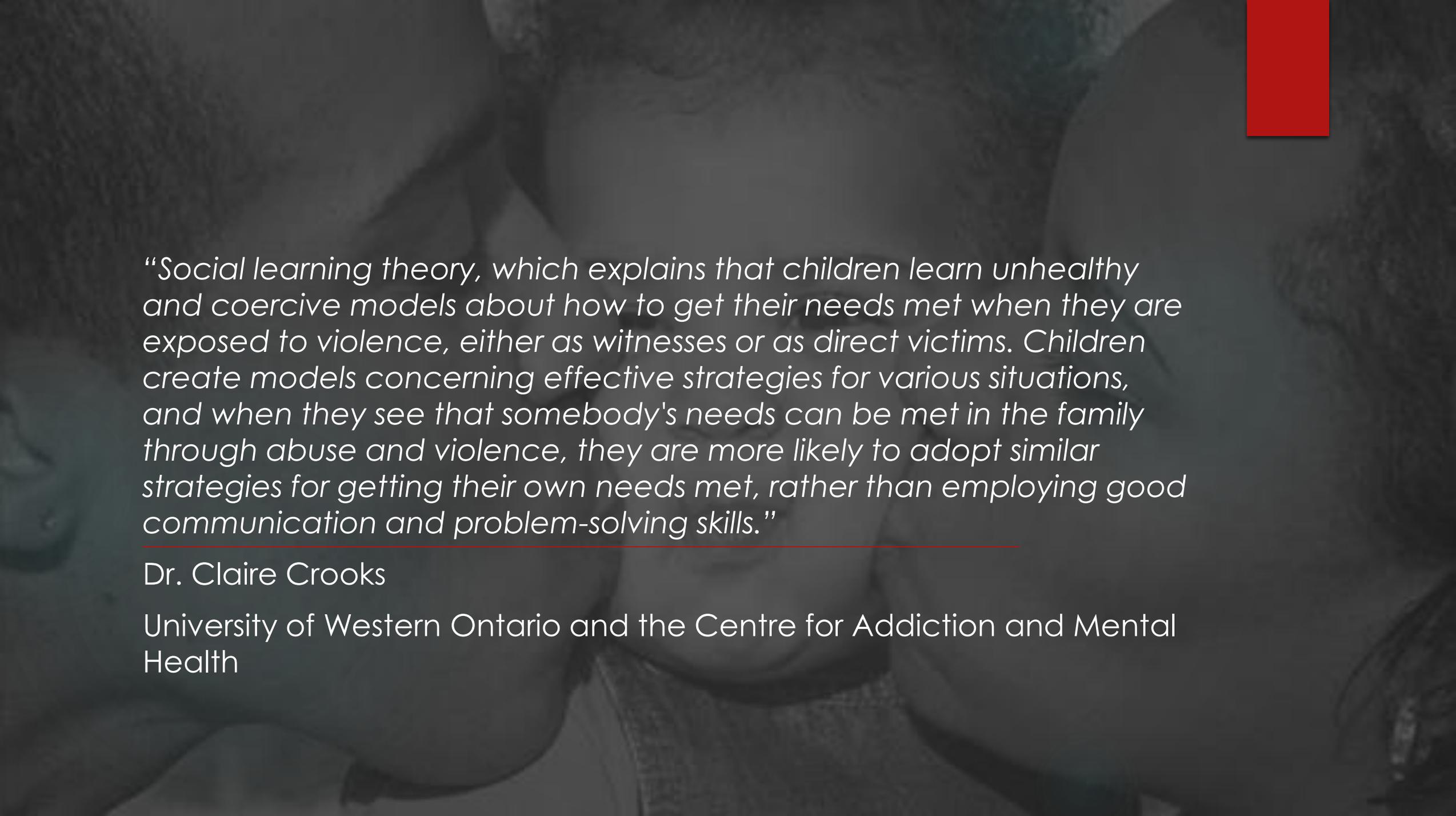
-Donna Jackson Nakazawa in  
*Childhood Disrupted*





# Cycle of Violence





*“Social learning theory, which explains that children learn unhealthy and coercive models about how to get their needs met when they are exposed to violence, either as witnesses or as direct victims. Children create models concerning effective strategies for various situations, and when they see that somebody's needs can be met in the family through abuse and violence, they are more likely to adopt similar strategies for getting their own needs met, rather than employing good communication and problem-solving skills.”*

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Dr. Claire Crooks

University of Western Ontario and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

# Removed – Part I

Disclaimer: This video may contain content, language and graphics that may be disturbing to some viewers.

Viewer Discretion is advised.

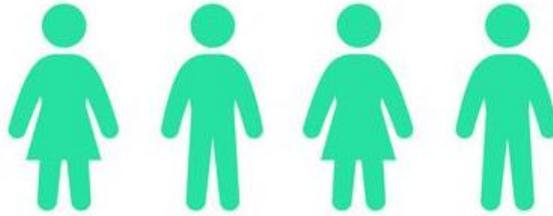


# Video Discussion

- ▶ Have you seen the film before? What is/was your initial reaction?
- ▶ What impact did the children's home environment have on them? How about their relationship with their mother and others?

# Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

**The willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.**



**1 IN 15  
CHILDREN**

**ARE EXPOSED TO  
INTIMATE PARTNER  
VIOLENCE EACH YEAR**  
(90% OF THESE ARE EYEWITNESSES)

# IPV in Maryland



There were 15,301 IPV crimes REPORTED in Maryland in FY 2015



Between July 2016 and June 2017, forty-six people lost their lives because of intimate partner violence in Maryland



On September 14, 2016, Maryland domestic violence programs served 956 victims/survivors



In FY 2016, 1,784 temporary protective orders and 1,784 final protective orders were issued in Circuit and District courts

## 26 Intimate Partners Died

11 women were killed by their current or ex-boyfriend.



11 women were killed by their current or ex-husband.



2 men were killed by their girlfriend



1 man was killed by his boyfriend



1 woman was killed by her girlfriend



## 5 Bystanders Died

1 woman was killed by her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend



1 man was killed by his girlfriend's estranged husband



3 individuals were killed by their father, ages 19, 17 and 4.



## 15 Abusive Partners Died

11 men committed murder-suicide or attempted murder-suicide



# Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Children: Infants

Sleep disturbances

Eating disturbances

Continual fussing and crying

Having the inability to be comforted

Easily startled

Easily irritated

Lack of energy





# Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Children: Toddlers/Pre-schoolers





# Effects of Intimate Partner Violence on Children: School Age



Psychological distress



Behavior disorders



Disturbances in self-regulation



Difficulties in social interaction



Disorganized attachment

# Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Exposure to intimate partner violence is also sometimes included as a form of child maltreatment.

-World Health Organization

# Child Maltreatment in Maryland

- ▶ In 2015, there were 51,349 referrals made in Maryland for child abuse and neglect. 40% of those reports were referred for investigation. 6,790 of those investigated were found to be victims of abuse and neglect
- ▶ About 4,000 children were physically separated from their families and in out-of-home care.
  - ▶ Roughly 1300 were age 5 or younger

Children with Domestic Violence Caregiver Risk Factor, 2015

State	Victims	Victims With a Domestic Violence Caregiver Risk Factor	Victims With a Domestic Violence Caregiver Risk Factor Percent	Nonvictims	Nonvictims With a Domestic Violence Caregiver Risk Factor	Nonvictims With a Domestic Violence Caregiver Risk Factor Percent
Maryland	6,790	2,585	38.1	24,137	3,367	13.9

# Risk Factors of Child Maltreatment

## Parent or Caregiver

- Difficulty bonding with a newborn
- Not nurturing the child
- Having been maltreated themselves as a child
- Lacking awareness of child development or having unrealistic expectations
- Using alcohol or drugs
- Being involved in criminal activity
- Experiencing financial difficulties

## Relationship

- Physical, developmental or mental health problems of a family member
- Poor family dynamics or violence between family members (including IPV)
- Being isolated in the community or lacking a support network
- Lack of support in child rearing from extended family

# Impact of Maltreatment on Children

According to the Maryland Department of Health, “Victims of child abuse and neglect are also susceptible to possible attachment disorders, mental health issues, developmental delays, educational challenges, and behavioral problems”.

# Impact of Child Maltreatment

- ▶ Perpetrating or being a victim of violence
- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ Obesity
- ▶ High-risk sexual behaviors
- ▶ Unintended pregnancy
- ▶ Alcohol and drug misuse



# Connecting the Dots

- ▶ Children who witness violence are affected in ways similar to children who are physically abused
- ▶ 3-10 million children witness assaults against a parent by an intimate partner each year
- ▶ 30-60% of perpetrators of partner abuse also abused the children in the household
- ▶ Domestic Violence is the single major precursor to child deaths in the U.S.
- ▶ Children Learn to use violence as a way to solve problems

# Removed - Part II

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# Video Discussion

part two

- ▶ What strikes you about this video?
- ▶ How did the abuse history of this child impact her later behavior/interactions with others?
- ▶ What triggers fight/flight/freeze responses for this child?
- ▶ How did the adults who were trying to help, unknowingly mimic the behaviors of adults who had been hurtful in her life?
- ▶ What could they have done to be “deliberately different”?
- ▶ What actions by adults were healing for this child?

REMOVED



# Making a Difference... What we are doing / What we Can do



Strategy frequently mentioned as a Primary Strategies for the  
of and interventions for children and adolescents subjected  
to child maltreatment and/or exposed to intimate partner violence



## Home Visitation and Parent-Education Programs



BALTIMORE  
**HEALTHY  
START**  
*Our Babies Are More Precious Than Gold*



# Healthy Families America



# What you can do as Advocates for Children & Families

- ▶ See something, say something
- ▶ Screen, refer and follow-up
- ▶ Safety Plan
- ▶ Be empathetic and respectful at all times...always keeping the child's wellbeing at the forefront of your mind
- ▶ Practice trauma-informed care when working with families



# Thank You!

QUESTIONS